

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus for a~~ A deep paint roller pan for use with and in combination with paint and a paint roller, the paint roller having a handle thereon, the pan having a fitted cover, ~~in combination~~ comprising:

a) ~~a paint roller pan for use with a paint roller,~~ said paint roller pan having a wall around its periphery, said paint roller pan having a first deep end and an opposing second shallow end contained within said wall, said paint roller pan having a first lip disposed on top of said wall;

b) wherein said deep end of said paint roller pan has a depth greater than the diameter of the paint roller to permit the paint roller to be completely contained within the paint roller pan;

c) wherein said shallow end of said paint roller pan has a depth greater than the diameter of the handle of the paint roller to permit the paint roller handle to be completely contained within the paint roller pan; [[and,]]

d) a rear section of said wall facing said shallow end of said paint roller pan having a concave flange for supporting the handle of said paint roller when said paint roller is resting within said paint roller pan, the wall of said paint roller pan being high enough to fully contain said paint roller when resting within said paint roller pan;

e) [[d)]] [[a]] said cover being removably disposed on said paint roller pan, said cover being substantially planar, said cover being complementarily shaped as said wall of said paint roller pan, said cover having a second lip on the periphery thereof, said second lip of said cover mating to said first lip of said paint roller pan to permit said cover to tightly fit to said paint roller pan, said cover being sufficiently pliable to allow a center section thereof to be depressed prior to sealing said cover on said paint roller pan to expel excess air within said paint roller pan thereby allowing safe storage of said paint roller pan containing paint and said paint roller.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein an impermeable seat is formed between said first lip and said second lip to prevent the paint in the paint roller pan from drying out.

3. (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said impermeable seal is impermeable to gas to prevent the paint in the paint roller pan from drying out.

4. (original) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said impermeable seal is impermeable to fluid to prevent the paint in the paint roller pan from drying out.

5. (original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said cover comprises soft rubber.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 4 [[5]], wherein said cover comprises soft plastic.

7-10. (canceled)

11. (new) A method of storing a paint roller pan containing a paint roller and paint comprising the steps of:

a) placing said paint roller within said paint roller pan containing paint, said paint roller pan having a wall around its periphery, a rear section of said wall facing a shallow end of said paint roller pan having a concave shaped flange for supporting a handle on said paint roller, said wall being high enough to completely enclose said paint roller pan with paint roller;

b) placing a flat, pliable cover over said paint roller pan, said cover having an outer edge adapted to be in a sealing relationship with an upper edge of said wall; and

c) depressing a mid section of said cover prior to completing a sealing relationship with said paint roller pan in order to expel excess air within said paint roller pan thereby extending a storage period for said paint within said paint roller pan.